

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 03801 120928Z

11

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-01

EB-04 SWF-01 AGR-05 PC-01 /098 W

----- 072791

R 120904Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9277

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NIAMEY 3801

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, NG, NI, ML

SUBJ: REFUGEES IN NIGER

REF: A) LAGOS 1500 (NOTAL); B) NIAMEY 3709 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT OF COL. KOUNTCHE'S LAGOS PRESS CONFERENCE (REFTEL A) CONTAINS INTER ALIA VERBATEM TEXT HIS REMARKS ON REFUGEES. AFTER STATING NIGER WAS IN PROCESS HELPING ITS OWN NATIONALS RETURN FROM NIGERIA WHERE THEY HAD TAKEN REFUGE FROM DROUGHT, KOUNTCHE QUOTED AS SAYING HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MALIAN HEAD OF STATE DURING RECENT ALGIERS CONFERENCE SO THAT ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE BY MALIANS FOR REPATRIATING THEIR CITIZENS CURRENTLY IN NIGER. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT DESPITE SOME MISINFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL SCENE CONCERNING MOVEMENTS

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OF THESE PEOPLE, TRUTH OF MATTER IS THAT THEY HAVE

HAD TO LEAVE THEIR HOMELAND IN THEIR SEARCH FOR
SUBSISTENCE. SINCE SITUATION NOW RETURNING TO NORMAL,
IT IS UP TO GOVERNMENTS TO FIND MEANS REPATRIATE THEIR
NATIONALS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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COMMENT: GON STILL MAINTAINING POSITION MALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS
RESPONSIBILITY TO WORK OUT REPATRIATION ITS CITIZENS IN
NIGER. NIGER MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR REFUGEES, CAPT. ALI
SAIBOU, HINTED RECENTLY IN INFORMAL CONVERSATION THAT
GON CONSIDERING POLICY OF TREATING MALIANS IN SAME MANNER
AS NIGERIENS IN ORDER EASE CURRENT IMPASSE. HE SAID FREE
DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD IN CAMPS MIGHT BE HALTS EXCEPT IN
EXTREME CASES AND THAT FOOD WOULD BE PROVIDED ONLY IN RETURN
FOR WORK. GIVEN NOMADS'S KNOWN DISTASTE FOR WIELDING
PICKS AND SHOVELS, THERE GOOD CHANCE MALIANS MAY SIMPLY
PACK UP AND LEAVE CAMPS ON OWN ACCORD.HECK

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: cunninfx
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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